

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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SUBJECT	Ferdo Kozak, First Vice President of the People's Assembly of Slovenia	DATE DISTR.	19 December 1955
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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE

1. Ferdo Kozak, First Vice President of the People's Assembly of Slovenia, is about 58 years old and married. He has a son, Primoz, who is 25 years old, a university student, and a Party member. Ferdo Kozak comes from an old bourgeois family from the St. Peter district of Ljubljana. The Kozak family background and environment was described in the novels Senpeter (St. Peter) and Maske (Masks), written by Ferdo's brother Jus Kozak.

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2. Before World War II Ferdo Kozak was a gymnasium professor and a writer. He was a contributor, and, for a limited period of time, the chief editor of the Slovenian literary review Sodobnost (Contemporary Review) which was published in Ljubljana until 1941 and which was a sort of literary organ of the Slovenian "cultural bolsheviks." During the Italian occupation of Ljubljana he joined the Liberation Front, the Communist underground organization in Slovenia, was arrested by Italians, together with his brother Jus, and confined in a village in Italy until 1943.

3. On 5 May 1945 Kozak became Minister for Culture in the first Communist government of Slovenia which was set up on that day in Ajdovscina near Trieste. In 1947 Kozak left this post and devoted himself entirely to political activity. Since 1947 he has been at various periods of time a member of the Federal Parliament, a member of the Slovenian Parliament, and Vice President of the Slovenian Parliament. About two years ago he again began showing interest in literary activity and became a contributor to Nova Sodobnost (New Contemporary Review), a successor of the pre-war Sodobnost.

4. Ferdo Kozak has an important position in the Union of Communists of Slovenia, but his high position in Slovenia today is due more to his pre-war rather than his wartime and post-war activity. The pre-war "cultural bolshevism" of Kozak, his brother Jus, and Josip Vidmar, which was directed against the traditional parties and at those intellectuals who looked for something different, contributed considerably in Slovenia towards the creation of the atmosphere necessary for the foundation of the Liberation Front.

5. Ferdo Kozak tries to confine his social life mainly to the top government circles in Slovenia.

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He has a car at his disposition and leads the life of a "bourgeois" Communist. He lives in Villa Vrtaca, in the Vrtaca section of Ljubljana.

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